

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Perls *et al.* DOCKET NO.: BIT-001 (1538/47)  
SERIAL NO.: 09/928,102 GROUP NO.: 1634  
FILING DATE: August 10, 2001 EXAMINER: Carla J. Myers  
TITLE: GENETIC LOCI INDICATIVE OF PROPENSITY FOR LONGEVITY  
AND METHODS FOR IDENTIFYING PROPENSITY FOR AGE-  
RELATED DISEASES

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on April 3, 2002 in connection with the above-referenced patent application.

A petition for a three-month extension of time is enclosed herewith. Applicants claim small entity status under 37 CFR 1.27, therefore the resulting fee for the three-month extension of time is \$460.00. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the required fee to Deposit Account No. 20-0531.

Applicants thank the Examiner for conducting a telephonic interview on October 2, 2002 with Applicants' attorneys, Thomas C. Meyers and Jeremy P. Occek.

Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 15-22 are in condition for allowance in the patent application identified above, and such action is hereby requested.

AMENDMENTS

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-14 without prejudice, and add new claims 15-22 as follows: